

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Canceled).

Claim 2 (Previously Presented). An isolated nucleic acid encoding a protein that has the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 and that has an activity of regulating the pH of vacuoles in plant cells.

Claims 3-14 (Canceled).

Claim 15 (Previously Presented). A vector comprising the nucleic acid sequence according to claim 2.

Claims 16-18 (Canceled).

Claim 19 (Previously Presented). A host cell transformed with the vector according to claim 15.

Claims 20-30 (Canceled).

Claim 31 (Currently Amended). A transgenic plant in which the nucleic acid sequence according to claim 2 has been introduced or a progeny of said plant in which said nucleic acid sequence has been introduced in said progeny and in which the pH of vacuoles in the plant cells are regulated and flower color is altered, or a tissue thereof.

Claims 32-34 (Canceled).

Claim 35 (Currently Amended). A cut flower of the plant according to claim 31 or a progeny of said plant in which said nucleic acid sequence has been introduced in said progeny and in which the pH of vacuoles in the plant cells are regulated and flower color is altered.

Claims 36-38 (Canceled).

Claim 39 (Previously Presented). A method of regulating the pH of vacuoles comprising introducing the nucleic acid sequence according to claim 2 into a plant or plant cells and then allowing said nucleic acid sequence to be expressed in said plant or plant cells.

Claims 40-42 (Canceled).

Claim 43 (Previously Presented). A method of controlling the flower color of a plant comprising introducing the nucleic acid sequence according to claim 2 into a plant or plant cells and then allowing said nucleic acid sequence to be expressed in said plant or plant cells.

Claims 44-51 (Canceled).